



Common questions about National 4 and National 5 Graphic Communication

What is the structure of the National 5 Graphic Communication Course?

There are two internally assessed Units:

- ◆ 2D Graphic Communication
- ◆ 3D and Pictorial Graphic Communication

And

- ◆ An externally assessed Course Component made up of an assignment and a question paper.

Do we have to send the Unit work to SQA to be centrally marked?

No, candidates will be internally assessed on a pass/fail basis against the Outcomes and Assessment Standards in the Unit Specifications. Assessment decisions should be based on whether the candidate's response meets the requirements of the Assessment Standards for the Outcome. Unit work is subject to external visiting verification.

If a candidate receives a band 8 or 9 (No award) in the National 5 Graphic Communication Course, will they be able to gain a National 4 Course award?

A candidate who receives a band 8 or 9 (No Award) in a National 5 Course external assessment will be able to gain a National 4 Course, as long as the following requirements are met:

- ◆ there is a hierarchical/corresponding Course at National 4
- ◆ the candidate has passed all the internally-assessed Units in the National 5 Course
- ◆ the candidate has passed the National 4 Added Value Unit

Further information on 'Recognising Positive Achievement' is available on our [Delivery Processes web page](#).

Can you clarify Assessment Standard 1.2 in 2D Graphic Communication Unit?

- ◆ '1.2 Producing orthographic drawings and details of everyday objects, buildings, structures and/or geometric shapes and forms to within an accuracy of 1 mm.'

This applies to both electronic and manual methodologies. The Course, unless specifically determined by the Assessment Standard or Outcome, can be completed using either electronic or manual methods. In most cases, when using electronic methods and specific software platforms, accuracy will be supported more easily, and the tolerance still applies. Where a centre elects to produce work manually, then this tolerance will also apply. The methodology is for the assessor to decide.

Course assessment — National 5

Is there a bank of assessment tasks for the National 5 assignment?

Yes. The bank of assessment tasks are available from SQA's secure website and can be accessed by your SQA Co-ordinator.

Is there a page limit for the National 5 assignment?

A graphic communication assignment should not exceed eight*, A3-size pages for graphics work and two A3-size pages for analysis, research and the evaluation.

*The following guidance should be applied for the folio:

- ◆ analysis and research (1 A3 pages)
- ◆ preliminary work (1-2 A3 pages across the folio)
- ◆ production work (2-3 A3 pages across the folio)
- ◆ promotional work (2-3 A3 pages across the folio)
- ◆ evaluation (1 A4 page)

What is the closing date for submitting the internal assessment mark for the National 5 assignment?

Further information on submission dates can be found in the *Guide for SQA Co-ordinators 2013-2014*, and is available from the [SQA Connect homepage](#).

General Curriculum for Excellence questions and answers can be found on the [frequently asked questions section](#) of SQA's website.